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## CAMPAIGN FINANCE DIVISION

☒ **WAIVER REQUEST**

☐ **RECONSIDERATION REQUEST**

**DATE: 5/26/2021**

**DOCKET #:**

### FILER INFORMATION

Name: Valinicia Renee Washington  
Office: Justice of the Peace, 7th Justice Court  
Parish: JEFFERSON  
Election Date: 11/3/2020  
Level of Office: Any

### REPORT INFORMATION

Name of Report: 30-P  
Original Due Date: 10/5/2020  
Date Filed: 11/24/2020  
Activity Receipts: \$1,150.00  
Expenditures: \$2,327.46  
Funds at Close of Reporting Period: \$1,822.54

### LATE FEE INFORMATION

Amount of Late Fee: \$1000  
Days Late: 50  
Late Fee Order Received: 12/7/2020  
Payment/Waiver Request Due Date: 12/27/2020  
Waiver Request Received: 12/18/2020  
Additional Information Requested:

- Medical
- Financial
- Other

COMMENTS: Candidate mailed in her waiver request and states that she was confused about the criteria that made her required to file. She said she thought that the only requirement was to spend over \$2500, she did not realize that it also depended on contribution amounts. She received one contribution of \$350.00 on 9/2/2020 that made her required to file a 30-P. She was notified that she was required to file 30-P this after filing the 10-P that included the contribution on 9/2/2020. She amended the 10-P and filed the 30-P but did not realize that the report was not submitted properly when she called for another matter. She was then assisted with the filing. She requests a waiver or a reduction of the late fee.

### OTHER LATE FEE INFORMATION

#### Campaign Finance:

Other Outstanding Reports: No  
Other Outstanding Late Fees: No  
Prior Late Fees: YES  
Reassessed Late Fees: No

#### Disclosure Statements:

Other Outstanding Late Fees: No  
Prior Late Fees: No

*Sent by Fax*

FAX

12/14/2020

TO: Louisiana Board of Ethics

225.219.5600 Phone

225.381.7271 Fax

FROM: VALINICIA WASHINGTON

504.975.7909 Phone

504.581.8058 Fax

NUMBER OF PAGES TO FOLLOW: 3 Including Fax Cover

REF: Request for Wavier/ Reduction

NOTE: PLEASE CONFIRM RECEIPT OF THE DOCUMENT, AT [VRW1225@AOL.COM](mailto:VRW1225@AOL.COM).

Thank You

THIS FAX CONTAINS SENSITIVE DOCUMENTS AND IS INTENDED FOR AXA REPRESENTATIVES ONLY. IF YOU RECEIVE THIS IN ERROR, PLEASE DESTROY THE ENTIRE DOCUMENT AND KINDLY NOTIFY THE SENDER.

*Note: I'm sending this due to not receiving a confirmation via the email listed above.*

Valinicia "Renee" Washington  
372 Layman Street  
Avondale, LA. 70094  
504.975.7909

December 10, 2020

Board of Ethics  
P.O. Box 4368  
Baton Rouge, LA. 70821  
225.219.5600  
225.381.7271 Fax

RE: Request to Waive or reduce late fee assessment for the November 3, 2020 Election 30-p Campaign Finance Disclosure Report Filed late

Dear Board of Ethics,

I received your letter dated December 7, 2020, signed by Melissa Horn, concerning the fee assessed to my campaign in the amount of \$1000.00. I know that the Board of Ethics makes information available concerning report filing but I experienced a measure of confusion regarding what necessitated filing the first report. On the filing date, 9/24/2020, I called the Ethics Board to get clarification, but was unable to speak with anyone so I left a message. I believed that a candidate who had not spent \$2500.00 on their campaign within 1/1/2020- 9/24/2020 time period was not required to file. Based on this, I did not file a 30 day prior, Campaign Finance Disclosure Report.

The fact that I listed a \$350.00 contribution in the report covering 9/24/2020-10/14/2020 must have triggered the discovery of the error and the need to amend that report. A notification letter was sent to me dated November 9, 2020, signed by Jennifer Yoho, indicating that I was required to file a report for activity that took place from 1/1/2020-9/24/2020 and that the report submitted on 10/14/2020 had to be amended to show only activity that took place from 9/25//20-10/14/2020 without providing the particulars of why I was required to file a report for activity during 1/1/2020-9/24/2020. I knew that I had not reached the spending limit and believed this to be the mandating criteria to file so I placed a call to the Ethics Board office on 11/11/2020 in an attempt to discover what I had done wrong. It wasn't until speaking with someone in your office concerning the matter on 11/11/2020 that I understood that the \$350.00 donation I received in the form of a check dated 9/2/2020 necessitated filing a report for the period covering 1/1/2020-9/24/2020. Prior to placing the call, I genuinely believed that the only criteria for filing a report for that time period was when a candidate reached the \$2500.00 spending threshold.


The missing report was then prepared and the report required to be amended was amended accordingly. I believed that both reports were successfully sent electronically, but later learned they had

not been received by the Ethics Board. It wasn't until 11/25/2020 that the filing failure was discovered as follows; I called the Ethics office and had my call returned on an unrelated matter regarding the report due on 11/25/2020. During the conversation, I was asked about the reports, (1/1/2020-9/24/2020 and the amended report, 9/25/2020-10/14/2020). My response was that the reports had been filed. I was told that neither report had been received by the Ethics Board. I searched my email, while still engaged in conversation with the Ethics Board, for the receipts but found none. Obviously, the attempt to send the reports on 11/11/2020 failed. The reports were submitted immediately electronically while still speaking with the Ethics Board representative. The report due on 11/25/2020 was submitted later the same date.

In all sincerity, I made the mistakes with not filing the reports when scheduled to do and I take full responsibility for doing so, but the actions were honestly mistakes. **I'm writing to ask for a waiver of the fee, or reduction if possible.** Sadly, I am cash strapped at this time and I am simply unable to pay the \$1000 fee. If the decision of the Board is to assess the fee in spite of the request to waive it, I ask for a way to pay the fee over a reasonable period of time.

I want to thank you in advance for your time and consideration as I hope for a favorable decision from the Board.

Kindest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Valinicia' followed by a stylized flourish.

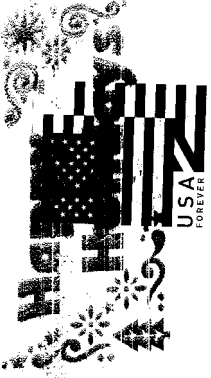
Valinicia "Renee" Washington



Ms. V. R. Washington  
372 Layman St.  
Westwego, LA 70094

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Board of Ethics  
P.O. Box 4368  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

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